

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated November 14, 2009 which this Reply is filed within the one month shortened statutory period for reply. Claims 1-39 were pending in the application and the Examiner states that the claims are subject to restriction action and/or election requirement. Applicants cancel claims 14-18. No new matter is added in this Reply. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested.

The Examiner asserts a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 requiring restriction of the application as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-13 and 19-39, drawn to a substrate cutting system including first and second substrate supporting units supporting a substrate such that the substrate which has been moved in a Y direction by clamp devices is cut along a X direction and the Y direction by substrate cutting devices.
- Group II: Claims 14-18, drawn to a substrate cutting system including substrate floating units for supporting the substrate with air.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, consisting of Claims 1-13 and 19-39 for prosecution in this application. Applicants have selected Group I in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

The Examiner also requires an election of a Group of Invention and cites 8 groups (Group IA – Group IH).

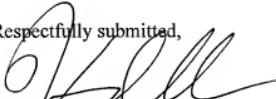
Applicants hereby elect Group IB, claims 5-9, 11 and 39, drawn to a substrate cutting system including a steam unit section for spraying steam onto the substrate.

Applicants does not acquiesce to the Examiner's foundation for the Restriction Requirement as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, the foregoing election is made without waiver, estoppel or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of canceled claims 14-18.

The foregoing amendments conforms this application to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated November 13, 2009. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: December 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
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